



AXIS

LOKI

AGENT OF AXIS

SENSES-SHATTERING
8TH
ISSUE!

NEW! HEROIC
PROTAGONIST!

LEE
GARDNER
ART

EWING
GARBETT
WOODARD

008

MARVEL

THIS IS THE STORY OF LOKI.

LOKI, WHO, BORN AGAIN, SOUGHT TO ERASE THE MISDEEDS
OF THE PAST, WHO SOUGHT TO CHANGE.

ALONG THE WAY, HE MET WITH THE SORCERESS (AND THIEF)
LORELEI, THE HERO (AND DOUCHEBRO) SIGURD, AND VERITY
WILLIS, A HUMAN WITH THE ABILITY TO SEE THROUGH ANY LIE
OR ILLUSION...AND THE ONLY PERSON LOKI EVER CALLED A
FRIEND.

MEANWHILE, LOKI'S ATTEMPTS TO CHANGE WERE MONITORED,
AND STYMIED, BY AN OLDER LOKI -- THE LOKI OF THE FUTURE,
WHO HAD WALKED BACK THROUGH TIME TO ENSURE HIS
STORY WOULD COME TO PASS...AND TO TRAP HIS YOUNGER
SELF IN IT.

BUT STORIES CAN PASS THROUGH OTHER STORIES, AND BE
ALTERED BY THEIR TELLING. AFTER SUCH A CROSSING-OVER
— (THE DETAILS OF WHICH YOU WILL FIND EXPLAINED IN
THESE VERY PAGES, IF YOU DO NOT HAVE THEM ALREADY!) —
LOKI AT LAST ACHIEVED THE CHANGE HE SOUGHT. TOGETHER
WITH LORELEI'S SISTER, AMORA THE ENCHANTRESS, HE WAS
TRANSFORMED INTO A RIGHTER OF WRONGS, A FIGHTER OF
EVIL, A HERO TO STAND WITH THE GREATEST HEROES OF OLD.
HE BECAME...

...THE AGENT OF...AXIS!

ONCE, LOKI LAUFHEYSSON WAS THE SELFISH GOD OF MISCHIEF--BUT THOSE DAYS ARE OVER! NOW--ARMED WITH GRAM, THE SWORD OF TRUTH, AND HIS OWN MAGICS--HE FIGHTS FOR THE FORCES OF GOOD AS THE GOD OF HEROISM!

MARVEL COMICS PROUDLY PRESENTS:

LOKI

AGENT OF AXIS

Las Vegas: A city built on sand, sin and--above all--spectacle.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! BOYS AND GIRLS! TONIGHT--FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY--WE BRING YOU THE DARING, DASHING, DEVIL-MAY-CARE... DEATH THROWS!

NO APPLAUSE, FOLKS--JUST YOUR MONEY.

DON'T LAUGH, IT'S NOT A REQUEST.

The patrons of the Big Top Casino are about to get just a little more spectacle than they bargained for...

I CANNOT TELL A LIE!

Al Ewing writer Lee Garbett artist Nolan Woodard color artist VC's Clayton Cowles letterer

Lee Garbett cover artist Jon Moisan asst. editor Wil Moss editor Axel Alonso editor in chief Joe Quesada chief creative officer Dan Buckley publisher Alan Fine exec. producer

Loki created by Stan Lee, Larry Lieber & Jack Kirby

--and even more unbelievable results!

OWWW

SPA-

MY GUN--

DA-

DANG

MAYBE TH...
SHOULD HA...
MADE ME T...
NEW CAPTAIN...
AMERICA

--and even more unbelievable results!

DANG

MY GUN--

DA-

SPA-

MAYBE TH SHOULD HA MADE ME T NEW CAPTA AMERICA

---and even more unbelievable results!

OWWW

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THAP



EXCUSE
ME,
MADAM--

--BUT I
THINK YOU
DROPPED
THIS.

Kessss

The man with the laughing eyes
is named Loki--and yesterday,
he was the God of Mischief.

He was selfish and guilt-
ridden, dedicated almost
entirely to material
gain and his own
well-being.

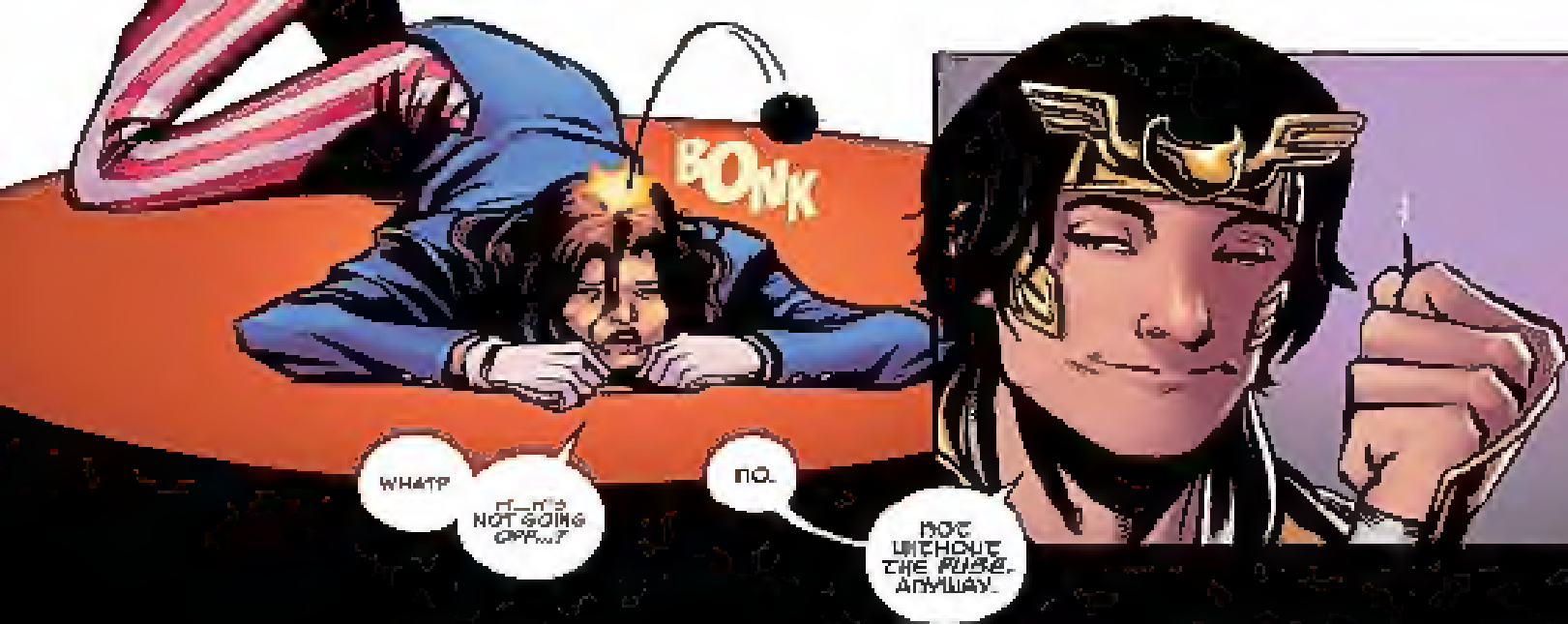
But the one thing the Dark
Prince of Asgard wanted most
of all...was to change.

And he has.

Boy howdy,
has he ever!



ALLOW
ME TO
ACQUAIN
TE!





--and assumes a
batting stance.

SWING,
BATTER
BATTER
BATTER
BATTER--





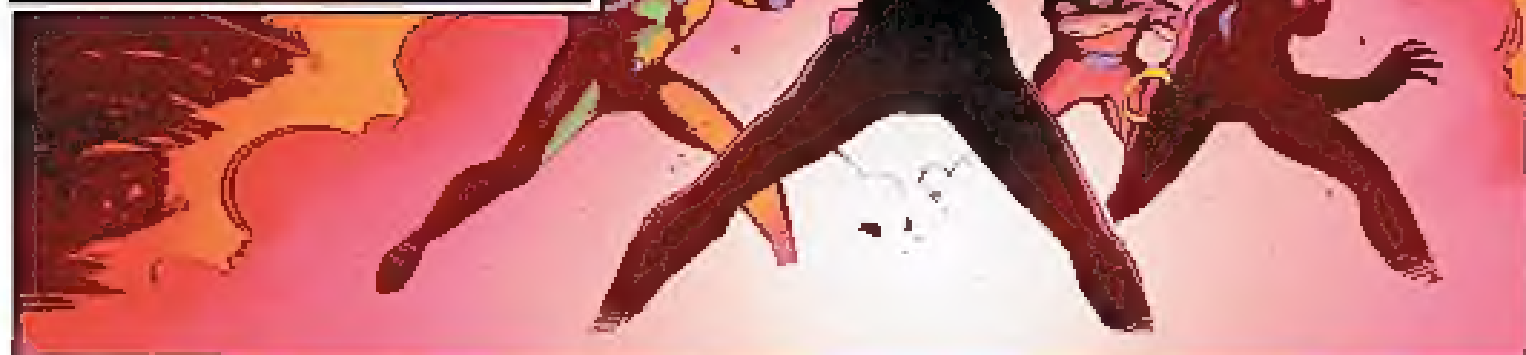
ORVILLE?

WHAT WAS IN THAT BALL, EXACTLY?



UH...

FAST-ACTING KNOCKOUT GAD?



DAMMIT, ODDBALL—
KUPP!

IT—KUPP!—
IT AIN'T MY FAULT,
KNICK!

WE
PLANNED FOR SUPER
HEROES—



BUT LORD'S...

—A BAD GUY...

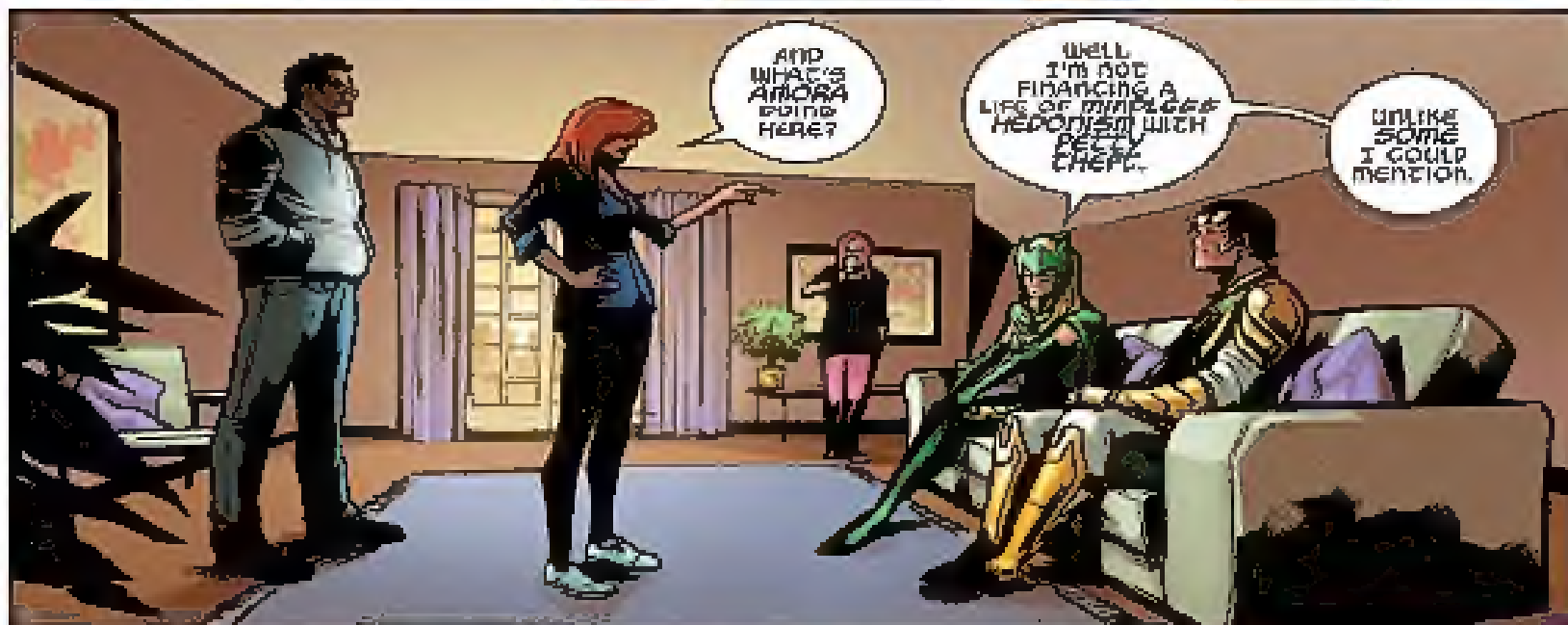
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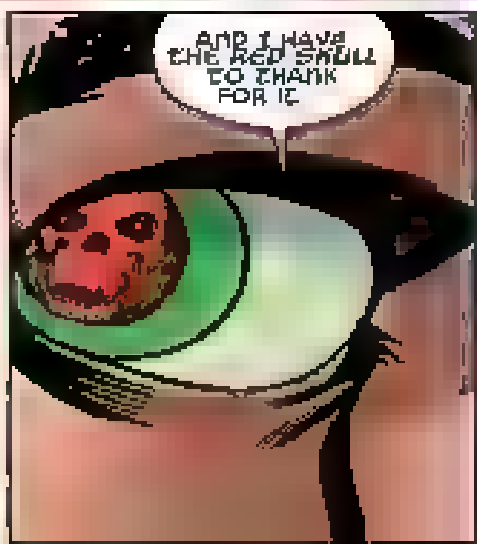
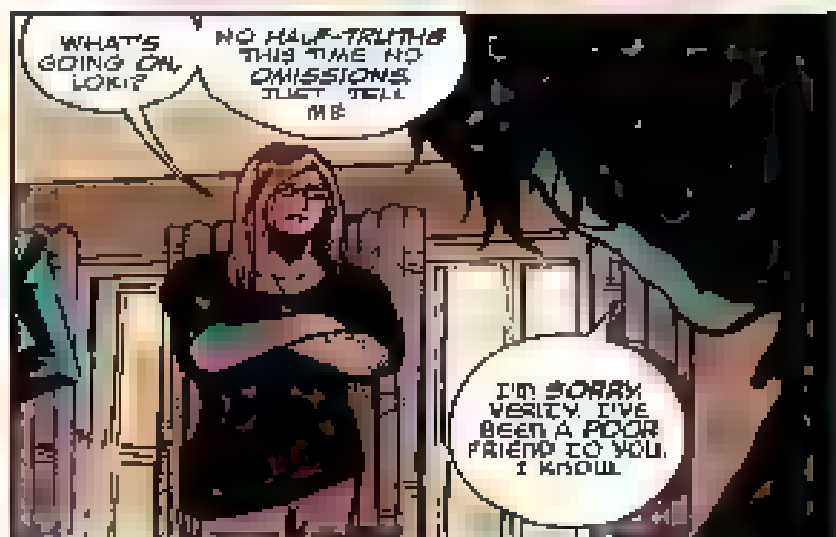
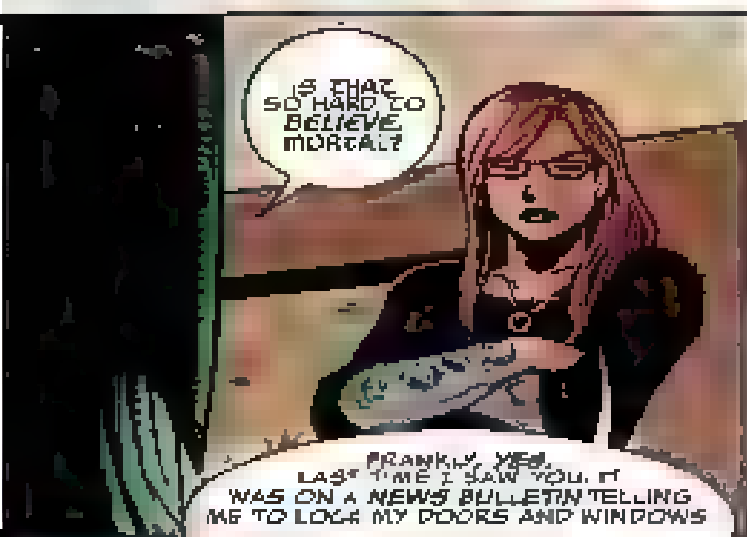
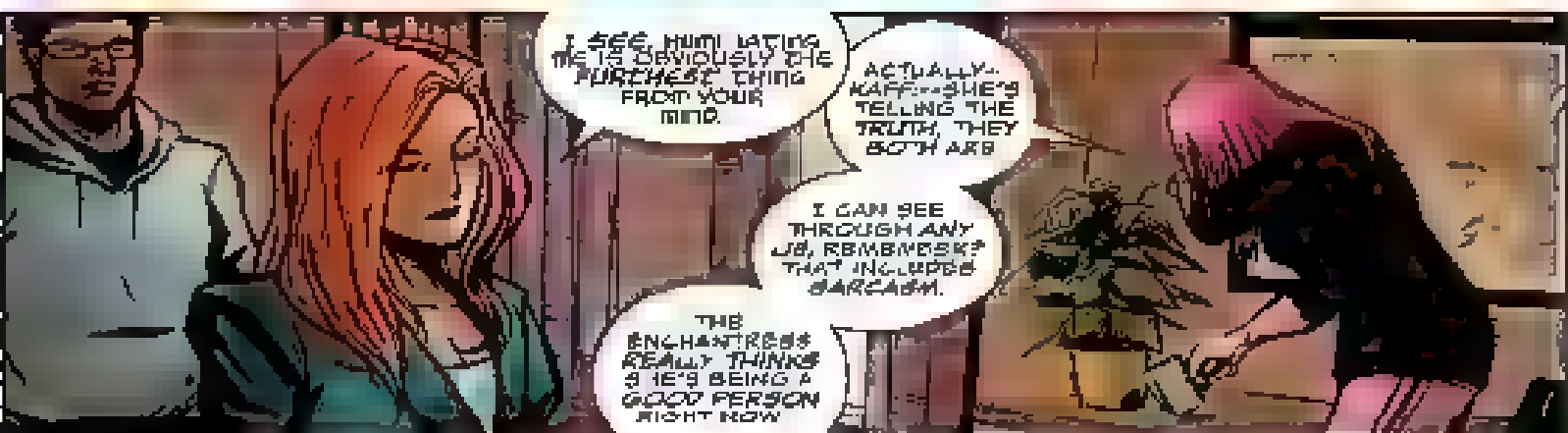
NOT
ANYMORE.


With the sound of cheering ringing in his ears—for perhaps the first time in any of his lives—



--Loki ponders Oddball's words...and his own. And finds his mind drifting...







He could tell no lies. But in his warm, gentle voice, Loki spun a tale... a tale of what occurred after Verity Willis returned from Latveria.!!

A tale of the final battle between the Red Skull and a loose coalition of super villains, fighting alongside the heroes for their own lives and freedom.

A tale of a fateful spell, cast by the Scarlet Witch and Doctor Doom, mixing order and chaos to defeat the Skull once and for all.

AFTER THE EVENTS OF LAST ISSUE, WILL

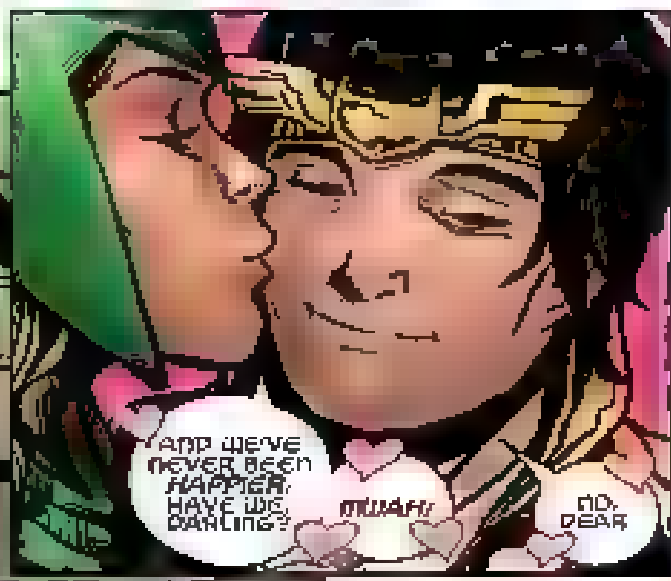
a spell powerful enough to affect the Gods themselves.!!

READ THE FULL STORY IN THE NOW CLASSIC AVENGERS NO. 100 REUNION MAIL



THE MAGIC CHANGED US PERHAPS BECAUSE WE BOTH ARE CREATURES OF MAGIC OURSELVES.

LIKE AN ALCHEMY OF THE SOUL THAT WHICH WAS EVIL IN US BECAME GOOD.



AND WE'VE NEVER BEEN HAPPIER, HAVE WE DARLING?

MULAHU

NO, DEAR



I DON'T KNOW LOK. YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A LITTLE... SELF-INTERESTED, BUT I WOULDN'T SAY THAT MADE YOU EVIL--

I WAS THE GOD OF EVIL, VERITY

EVEN THIS RELATIVELY BENIGN ITERATION OF ME. I'VE LIED AND MANIPULATED, I'VE CHEATED AND ROBBED. I'VE NEARLY DOOMED WHOLE REALITIES.



I'VE COMMITTED CRIMES THAT-- I THOUGHT--COULD NEVER BE FORGIVEN.

20 Years Ago



BUT NOW... I AM CHANGED. I AM ABSOLVED.

AND I FEEL NO GUILT



IS THAT THE ONLY REASON YOU ASKED US TO COME OVER, LON? TO GLOAT ABOUT HOW NOBLE YOU ARE?

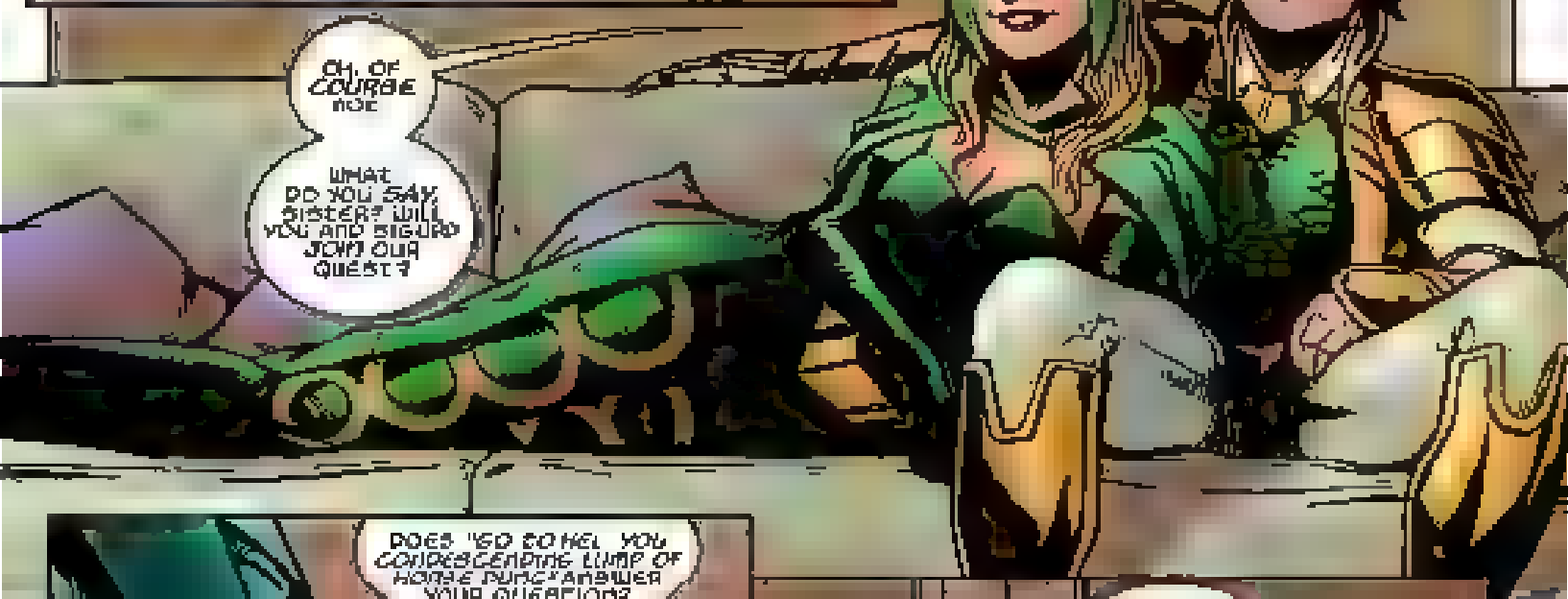
IT'S TRUE WE WANTED TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS.

BUT WE ALSO HOPED TO CONVINCE YOU TO JOIN US IN THE HEROIC LIFE YOU WON'T REGRET IT

IT'S SO WONDERFUL TO BE GOOD TO KNOW, DEEP INSIDE THAT YOU ARE OF THE RIGHTEOUS.

I KNOW THIS WILL SOUND AWFUL, BUT I CAN'T HELP FEELING PITY FOR THE REST OF YOU.

NOW, NOW WE MUSTN'T JUDGE



OH, OF COURSE NOT

WHAT DO YOU SAY, SISTER? WILL YOU AND BIGBOY JOIN OUR QUEST?



DOES 'SO SO' HELP YOU CONDESCENDING LUMP OF HORSE PUNCH ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS?

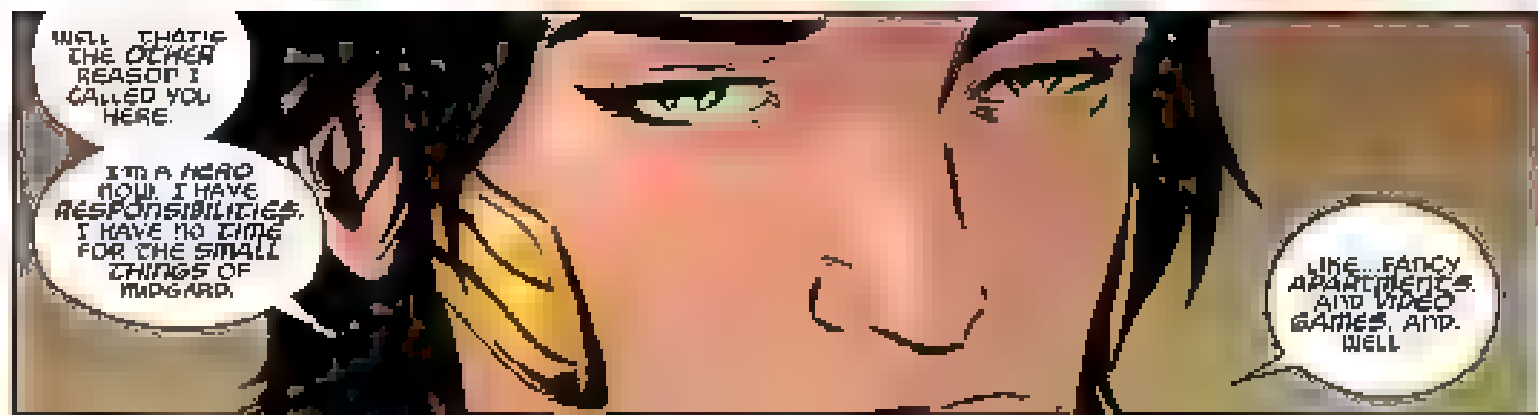
WELL, REALLY!



LET'S NOT FIGHT EVERYONE IT'S HARD ENOUGH TO SAY GOODBYE WITHOUT

WAIT WHAT?

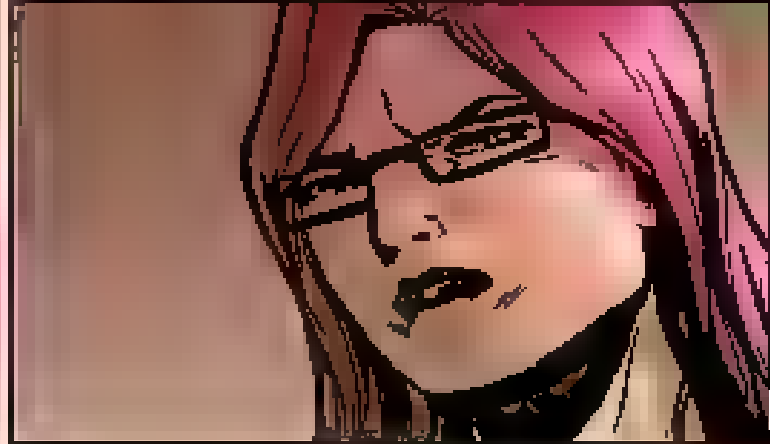
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "GOODBYE"?



WELL, THAT'S THE OTHER REASON I CALLED YOU HERE.

I'M A HERO NOW, I HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES. I HAVE NO TIME FOR THE SMALL THINGS OF MUDGARD.

LIKE... FANCY APPARTMENTS AND VIDEO GAMES AND WELL





THE TURN OF THIS MORAL CAUTION I FEAR FOR INSTANCE, WHO APPARENTLY FOLLOWED THE ODYSSEY FOR A TIME.

SUCH DEBAUCHERY, ECHO WAS ALWAYS A DOOR, BUT

FAME HEARE DEAR AMORA

IF MY BROTHER IS IN THE CITY OF VEGAS I WILL FIND HIM



AND I SWEAR I WILL SAVE HIM FROM HIMSELF

I WILL TEACH HIM THE LESSON I HAVE LEARNED, THAT WHILE OUR FORTUNES MAY SEEM HARSH, EVEN CRUEL

--HE CAN ALWAYS FIND A WAY TO ESCAPE THEM



Brave words. And perhaps Loki would have felt as confident if he'd known who was watching.



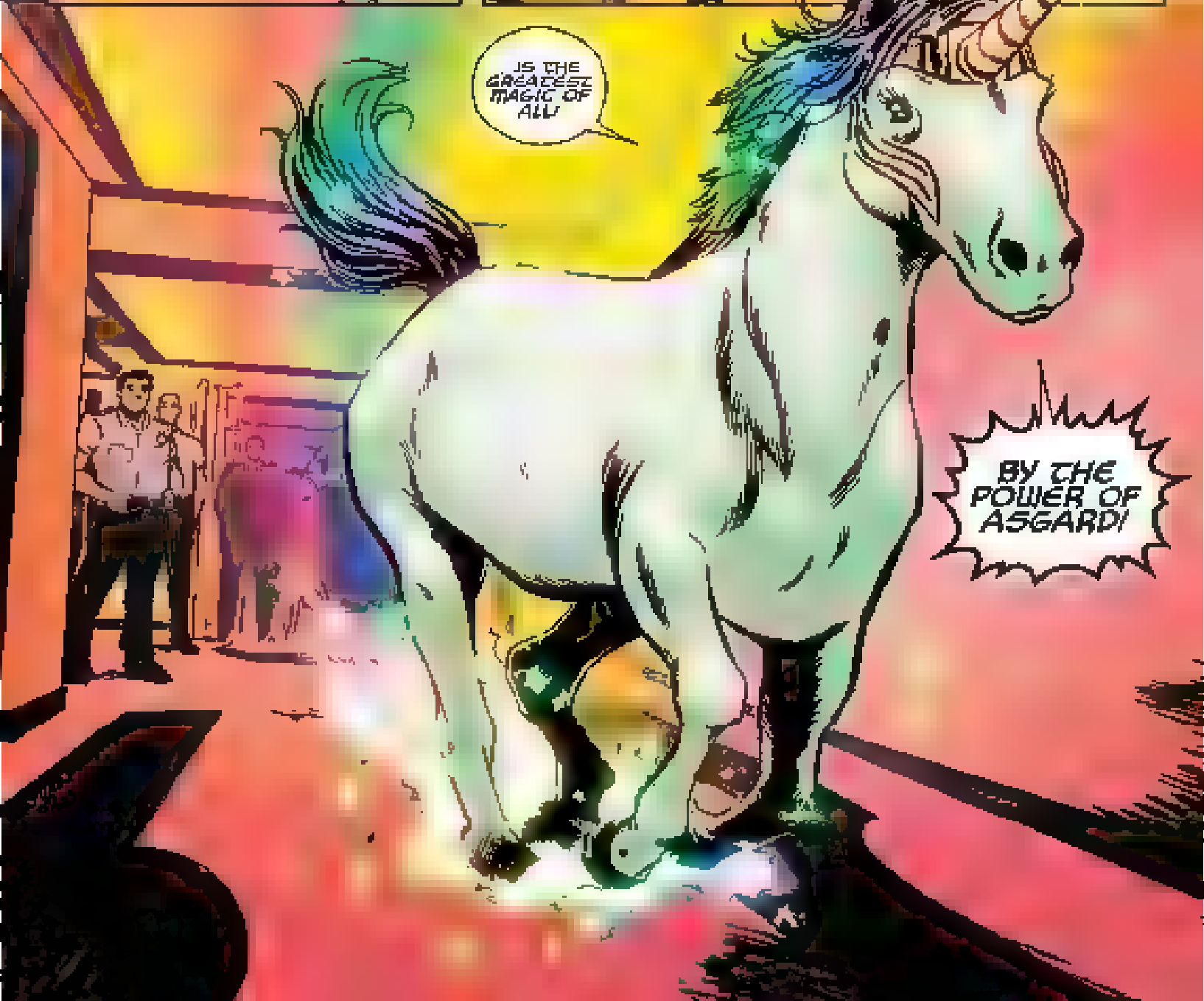
But perhaps not

HA HA HA
HA HAAA

His name is King Loki. He is Loki's future self

And, brother-- he hasn't changed at all!





Verity will never
know that Loki.

For her, the God of Evil was just
one more green-and-yellow costume
on the news. One more excuse
to stay indoors.

Then, suddenly...
he was her friend.

Her funny, bitchy, kind, ambiguous
friend, who cooked and listened and
said sorry when he screwed up
And meant it

Maybe the best friend
she'd ever had...

...until he decided
he was too good
for friends.

She tells herself
she's better off
without him.

That he only ever used her for his own
purpose: the human lie detector he
could keep a phone call away and wheel
out for emergencies.

She tells herself they
were never really friends.

JUST
TRUST
ME

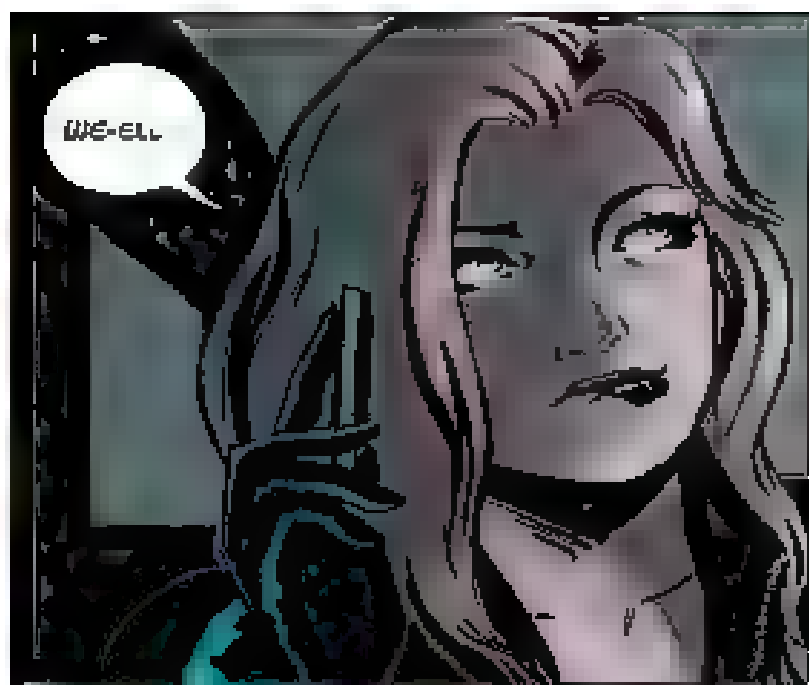
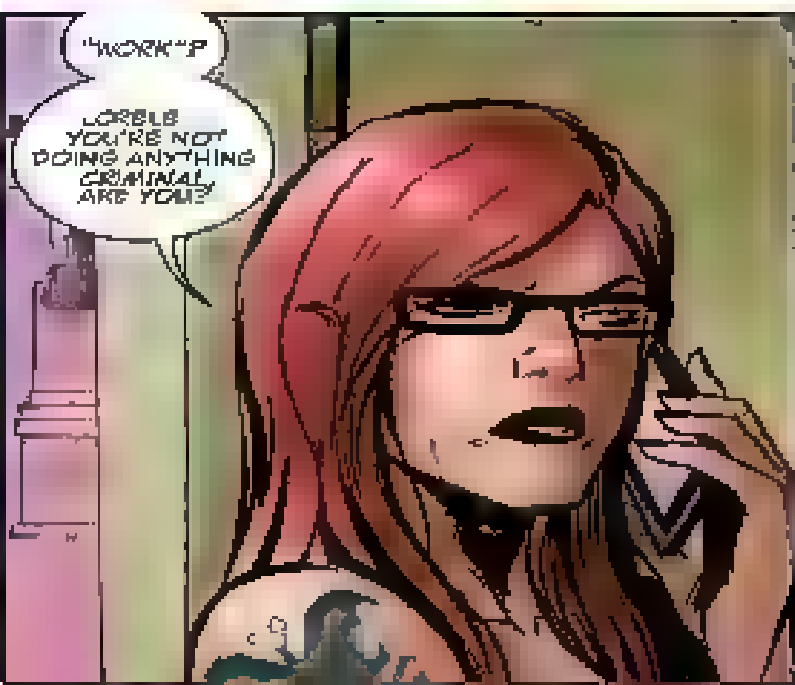
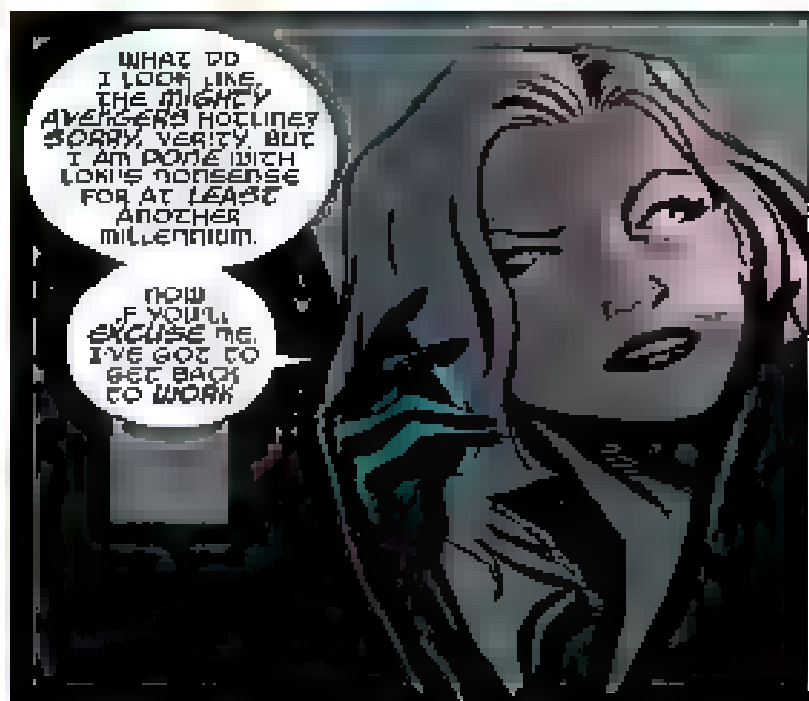
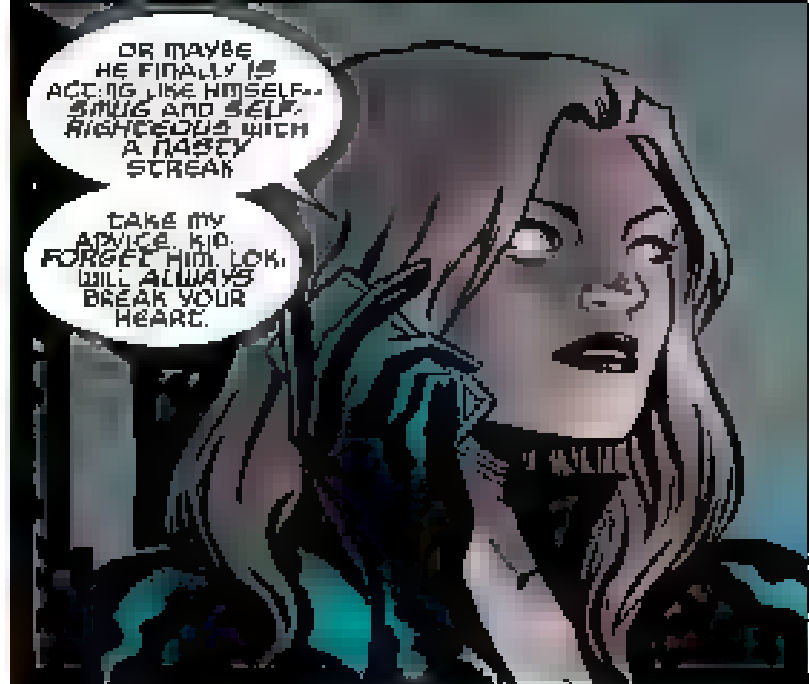
TRUST
IN ME

FOR
BOTH OF
US

but Verity
will always
see through lies

VERITY
GOOD TO
HEAR FROM
YOU.

FEELING
BETTER?



A comic book panel showing Lorelei and Loki in a heist. Lorelei, on the left, is a blonde woman in a black and red bodysuit with a large red bag slung over her shoulder. She is holding a handgun and looking towards Loki. Loki, on the right, is a man with dark hair in a black and red bodysuit, also holding a handgun and looking towards the entrance. In the background, two men in black tactical gear are standing in a doorway, aiming their guns. The scene is set in a dark, industrial environment with some debris on the floor.

...DEFINE
"CRITICAL."

NEXT ISSUE: LORELEI
VS. THE ENCHANTRESS!
THE JUDGMENT OF ORIN!
AND LOKI VS. THOR...
FOR ALL THE MARBLES,
BE HERE IN CHUCKY-ISH
DAYS, TRUE BELIEVER--
IT'S KINDA LONELY
WITHOUT YA!

NEXT ISSUE: BROTHER VS. BROTHER! A HUGE CHANGE IS COMING FOR LOKI, BUT THOR ISN'T A FAN!

LOKI

AGENT OF AXIS

I
CHALLENGE
YOU TO MATCH
YOUR POWERS
AGAINST MINE,
LOKI!

NEVER BEFORE HAS
THE HEROIC
LOKI
FACED A FOE
AS DANGEROUS
AS
THOR,
THE GOD OF
VILLAINY!!

FOLLOW THESE
OTHER PLOT
THREADS
IN THIS
GREAT ISSUE...

"LORELEI'S
LARCENOUS
LOOTING!"

"ODIN'S
JUDGMENT!"

IT IS **THOR**, MY
SWORN ENEMY!
HE HAS FOUND
ME AT LAST!

LET ONE
MYSTIC
MURDER!

LOKI: AGENT OF ASGARD #9



